



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. and 2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 13, wherein said recessed portion is provided at a connection portion of said third plate and said one end of said first plate.
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Currently amended) A hollow frame member according to claim 14, wherein said corner portion is positioned at said an extension line of a center in said thickness of said third plate.
6. (Currently amended) A hollow frame member according to claim 14, wherein said corner portion is positioned at ~~another end side of said first plate~~ apart from a center in said line of thickness of said third plate.
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Previously presented) A hollow frame member according to claim 15, wherein said second recessed portion is provided at a connection portion of said third plate and said one end of said second plate.



9. (Currently amended) A hollow frame member according to claim 8, wherein: adapted to be used in friction stir welding, comprising:

said hollow frame member comprises a first plate, a second plate which is substantially in parallel to said first plate, and a third plate for connecting one end of said first plate and one end of said second plate, said third plate being substantially perpendicular to said first plate and substantially perpendicular to said second plate,
at a side of an outer face of said one end of said first plate, a recessed portion is provided along to said one end of said first plate,

said recessed portion opens directed toward one outer side in said thickness direction of said member and one end direction of said member, and is defined by a substantially vertical surface facing outwardly in a horizontal direction, laterally to said thickness direction of said member and by a substantially horizontal surface facing in said thickness direction of said member,

said substantially horizontal surface facing outwardly in said thickness direction of said hollow frame member is positioned in a range, in the horizontal direction, adjacent a thickness of said hollow frame member,

said recessed portion is a portion capable of having a friction stir welding carried out therein by inserting a rotary tool therein, and

in said friction stir welding, a center of said rotary tool is inserted into said hollow frame member and is substantially coincided with an extension line of said substantially vertical surface facing outwardly laterally to said thickness direction of said hollow frame member,

wherein:

at said one end of said first plate, a second recessed portion is provided in

said second plate along to said one end,

said second recessed portion opens directed toward an outer side in a thickness direction of said hollow frame member and said one end direction of said hollow frame member, and is defined by a further substantially vertical surface facing outwardly laterally to said thickness direction of said hollow frame member and by a further substantially horizontal surface facing in said thickness direction of said hollow frame member,

said further substantially horizontal surface facing outwardly in said thickness direction of said hollow frame member is positioned in a range, in the horizontal direction, adjacent a thickness of said hollow frame member,

said second recessed portion is a portion capable of having a friction stir welding carried out therein by inserting a rotary tool therein, and

in said friction stir welding, a center of said rotary tool is inserted into said hollow frame member and is substantially coincided with an extension line of said further substantially vertical surface facing outward laterally to said thickness direction of said hollow frame member,

wherein said second recessed portion is provided at a connection portion of said third plate and said one end of said second plate; and

wherein a second corner portion from said second plate to said second recessed portion is positioned in ~~said a range of said an~~ extension line in said thickness of said third plate.

10. (Currently amended) A hollow frame member according to claim 9, wherein said second corner portion is positioned at ~~said an~~ extension line of a center in said thickness of said third plate.

11. (Currently amended) A hollow frame member according to claim 9, wherein said second corner portion is positioned at ~~another end side of said second plate~~ apart from said a center in line of said thickness of said third plate.

12. (Currently amended) A member adapted to be used in friction stir welding, comprising:

in one end of said member, in one outer face in a thickness direction of said member and another outer face in said thickness direction of said member, recessed portions are provided respectively,

said recessed portion of said one outer face opens directed toward one outer side in said thickness direction of said member and one end direction of said member, and is defined by one substantially vertical surface facing outwardly in a horizontal direction, laterally to said thickness direction of said member and by one substantially horizontal surface facing in said thickness direction of said member,

said recessed portion of said another outer face opens directed toward another outer side in said thickness direction of said member and said one end direction of said member, and is defined by another substantially vertical surface facing outwardly laterally to said thickness direction of said member and by another substantially horizontal surface facing in said thickness direction of said member,

said one substantially horizontal surface facing outwardly in said thickness direction of said member is positioned in a range, in the horizontal direction, adjacent ~~a of a plate~~ thickness of said member,

said another substantially horizontal surface facing outwardly in said thickness direction of said member is positioned in a said range, in the horizontal direction, adjacent said ~~of a plate~~ thickness of said member,

said respective recessed portions are portions capable of having a friction stir welding carried out therein by inserting a rotary tool therein,

in said friction stir welding, a center of said rotary tool is inserted into said member and is substantially coincided with an extension line of said one substantially vertical surface facing outwardly laterally to said thickness direction of said member, and

in said friction stir welding, said center of said rotary tool is substantially coincided with an extension line of said another substantially vertical surface facing outwardly laterally to said thickness direction of said member.

13. (Currently amended) A hollow frame member adapted to be used in friction stir welding, comprising:

said hollow frame member comprises a first plate, a second plate which is substantially in parallel to said first plate, and a third plate for connecting one end of said first plate and one end of said second plate, said third plate being substantially perpendicular to said first plate and substantially perpendicular to said second plate,

at a side of an outer face of said one end of said first plate, a recessed portion is provided along to said one end of said first plate,

said recessed portion opens directed toward one outer side in said thickness direction of said member and one end direction of said member, and is defined by a substantially vertical surface facing outwardly in a horizontal direction, laterally to

said thickness direction of said member and by a substantially horizontal surface facing in said thickness direction of said member,

said substantially horizontal surface facing outwardly in said thickness direction of said hollow frame member is positioned in a range, in the horizontal direction, adjacent a ~~of a plate~~ thickness of said hollow frame member,

said recessed portion is a portion capable of having a friction stir welding carried out therein by inserting a rotary tool therein, and

in said friction stir welding, a center of said rotary tool is inserted into said hollow frame member and is substantially coincided with an extension line of said substantially vertical surface facing outwardly laterally to said thickness direction of said hollow frame member.

14. (Currently amended) A hollow frame member ~~according to claim 3,~~ adapted to be used in friction stir welding, comprising:

said hollow frame member comprises a first plate, a second plate which is substantially in parallel to said first plate, and a third plate for connecting one end of said first plate and one end of said second plate, said third plate being substantially perpendicular to said first plate and substantially perpendicular to said second plate,

at a side of an outer face of said one end of said first plate, a recessed portion is provided along to said one end of said first plate,

said recessed portion opens directed toward one outer side in said thickness direction of said member and one end direction of said member, and is defined by a substantially vertical surface facing outwardly in a horizontal direction, laterally to said thickness direction of said member and by a substantially horizontal surface facing in said thickness direction of said member,

_____ said substantially horizontal surface facing outwardly in said thickness direction of said hollow frame member is positioned in a range, in the horizontal direction, adjacent a thickness of said hollow frame member.

_____ said recessed portion is a portion capable of having a friction stir welding carried out therein by inserting a rotary tool therein, and

_____ in said friction stir welding, a center of said rotary tool is inserted into said hollow frame member and is substantially coincided with an extension line of said substantially vertical surface facing outwardly laterally to said thickness direction of said hollow frame member.

_____ wherein said recessed portion is provided at a connection portion of said third plate and said one end of said first plate, and

_____ wherein a corner portion from said first plate to said recessed portion is positioned in said ~~a~~ range of said ~~an~~ extension line in said thickness of said third plate.

15. (Currently amended) A hollow frame member according to claim 13, wherein:

at said one end of said first plate, a second recessed portion is provided in said second plate along to said one end,

said second recessed portion opens directed toward an outer side in a thickness direction of said hollow frame member and said one end direction of said hollow frame member, and is defined by a further substantially vertical surface facing outwardly laterally to said thickness direction of said hollow frame member and by a further substantially horizontal surface facing in said thickness direction of said hollow frame member,

said further substantially horizontal surface facing outwardly in said thickness direction of said hollow frame member is positioned in a range, in the horizontal direction, adjacent a ~~of a plate~~ thickness of said hollow frame member,

said second recessed portion is a portion capable of having a friction stir welding carried out therein by inserting a rotary tool therein, and

in said friction stir welding, a center of said rotary tool is inserted into said hollow frame member and is substantially coincided with an extension line of said further substantially vertical surface facing outward laterally to said thickness direction of said hollow frame member.